Name: Date: Score: / 6

Tornado Safety: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 140 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Tornado Safety

A tornado is a spinning column of air that reaches from a storm cloud down to the ground. Tornadoes can have wind speeds of more than 200 miles per hour. They can knock down trees, flip cars, and destroy buildings in just a few minutes.

The United States has more tornadoes than any other country. Many happen in an area of the central states sometimes called Tornado Alley. They are most common in spring and early summer.

Scientists called meteorologists watch the weather closely. A tornado watch means the weather could create tornadoes, so be ready. A tornado warning means a tornado has been seen or shown on radar, so take cover right away. During a warning, go to a basement or a small room without windows on the lowest floor. Crouch down low and cover your head with your arms.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. how to read a map B. life in the central states C. how clouds form
   D. what tornadoes are and how to stay safe

2. **Detail:** How fast can tornado winds be?

   A. more than 200 miles per hour B. 10 miles per hour C. 50 miles per hour D. 1,000 miles per hour

3. **Detail:** When are tornadoes most common?

   A. in winter B. in the fall C. only at night D. in spring and early summer

4. **Vocabulary:** A meteorologist is...

   A. a kind of storm B. a person who builds houses C. a scientist who studies weather D. a radar machine

5. **Detail:** What should you do during a tornado warning?

   A. go to a basement or small room without windows B. go outside to watch C. get in the car
   D. open all the windows

6. **Inference:** What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?

ANSWER KEY

Tornado Safety: Reading Comprehension (answers)

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6. **Inference:** What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?

   A watch means tornadoes could form; a warning means one has been seen, so take cover now.